

Trial of Hijackers in Pakistan

17. SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the news item published in the Hindustan Times dated 8 February, 1985 regarding "Pak to try hijackers soon" and state :

(a) the number of hijackers of Indian Planes under detention in Pakistan and since when they are under detention there ;

(b) whether Government of India have approached Pakistan Government for the return of those hijackers to India ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government of Pakistan thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) Five hijackers who hijacked an Indian Airlines plane to Lahore on September 29, 1981, and nine hijackers who hijacked another plane to Lahore on July 5, 1984, have been in the custody of the Pakistan authorities since September 30, 1981 and July 6, 1984 respectively.

(b) and (c). Government have, on different occasions, verbally and in writing, asked the Pakistan Government to either return the hijackers or put them on trial in Pakistan. The trial of the hijackers has begun in Lahore on the 9th March, 1985.

Discussion of Foreign Secretary with his Pakistan Counterpart

18. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary during his visit to Malé in February, 1985 had in depth talks with his Pakistan counterpart on various issues relating to Indo-Pak relations ; and

(b) if so, specific issues which discussed and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). During his visit to Malé for the SARC Standing Committee Meeting in February 1985, the Foreign Secretary had informal talks with his Pakistan counterpart on various aspects of our bilateral relations and reiterated India's desire for cordial and cooperative relations with Pakistan. Both Foreign Secretaries found these to be useful.

Publication of Consumer Expenditure Survey

19. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the MINISTER OF PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been publishing consumer expenditure survey ;

(b) since when these are being published ;

(c) the latest year for which consumer expenditure survey is available ;

(d) the main trends revealed by the survey ; and

(e) Government's response to these trends ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) December, 1952.

(c) 1977-78.

(d) The main trends are as follows :